

em



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,141	09/11/2003	Sebastien Perrot	PF030065	4968

24498 7590 07/05/2006

THOMSON LICENSING INC.
PATENT OPERATIONS
PO BOX 5312
PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312

EXAMINER

ADDY, ANTHONY S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2617

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/660,141

Applicant(s)

PERROT ET AL.

Examiner

Anthony S. Addy

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 2617.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 15, 2006 has been entered. **Claims** 1-9 are pending in the present application.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims** 1-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2617

5. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Volpano, U.S. Publication Number 2003/0120763 A1**, and further in view of **Vij et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,452,910 (hereinafter Vij)**.

Regarding claim 1, Volpano teaches a bridge device for connecting a centralized wireless network to a plurality of other networks (see abstract, p. 2 [0032] and Fig. 1; shows a personal VLAN bridge 1 for connecting a centralized wireless network [i.e. wireless Ethernets 802.11a & 802.11g] to a plurality of other networks [i.e. VLAN 1, VLAN 2]), each of said other networks having devices which can communicate with each other (see p. 2 [0032-0035] and Fig. 1; shows STA's 16-24 which can communicate with each other), said centralized wireless network comprising: an access point adapted to manage the centralized wireless network and to associate a wireless device to allow said wireless device to be a member of the centralized wireless network and to allow said wireless device to communicate with other members of the centralized wireless network (see p. 2 [0032] and Fig. 1; shows 802.11g port 15 [i.e. reads on an access point adapted to manage the centralized wireless Ethernet network]), said bridge device comprising a bridge module for managing a plurality of ports for connecting to respective other networks (see p. 2 [0032-0035] and p. 3 [0041-0042]); and wherein the bridge device is adapted to be associated to said access point of the centralized wireless network (see p. 2 [0032] and Fig. 1).

Volpano fails to explicitly teach said bridge device comprises a link management module for managing associations with said access point of devices of networks connected to the bridge device other than the centralized wireless network.

However, one of ordinary skill in the art further recognizes that a bridge device connecting a plurality of networks is very well known in the art to include a link management module for managing associations of a devices of networks as taught for example by Vij.

Vij teaches a bridge device for interconnecting a wireless PAN and a wireless LAN, wherein the bridge device includes a link management module (see col. 1, lines 48-65, col. 3, lines 24-35, col. 5, line 48 through col. 6, line 35 and Fig. 4; shows a wireless bridge including a link management protocol (LMP) [i.e. the LMP reads on **a link management module** for managing associations, with an access point of a centralized wireless network, and devices of networks connected to the bridge device, since the LMP manages communications between the different networks the wireless bridge is connected to]).

It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Volpano with Vij to include a link management module for managing associations with said access point of devices of networks connected to the bridge device other than the centralized wireless network, in order to manage broken and newly formed communication links between the different networks the wireless bridge is connected to and to aid in an efficient maintenance of a spanning tree topology.

Regarding claim 2, Volpano in view of Vij teaches all the limitations of claim 1. Volpano further teaches a bridge device, further comprising means for determining a

Art Unit: 2617

spanning tree for all networks attached to the device, comprising means for enabling or disabling the determination of the spanning tree (see p. 3 [0042]).

6. Claims 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Volpano, U.S. Publication Number 2003/0120763 A1**, and **Vij et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,452,910 (hereinafter Vij)** as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of **Baker et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,570,366 (hereinafter Baker)**.

Regarding claim 3, Volpano in view of Vij teaches all the limitations of claim 1. The combination of Volpano and Vij fails to explicitly teach means for updating filtering tables for respective connected networks, said filtering tables comprising information for determining whether a message on a network is to be forwarded to another network or not, said updating using a process by default, comprising means for enabling or disabling the default process.

Baker, however, teaches a bridge-based access point comprising means for updating filtering tables for respective connected networks (see col. 4, line 52 through col. 5, line 32, col. 6, lines 35-44 and Figures 1, 2 and 8), said filtering tables comprising information for determining whether a message on a network is to be forwarded to another network or not, said updating using a process by default (see col. 4, line 52 through col. 5, line 32 and col. 6, lines 35-44), comprising means for enabling or disabling the default process (see col. 5, lines 19-26 and Figures 1, 2 and 8).

It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Volpano and Vij with Baker to include means for updating

filtering tables for respective connected networks, said filtering tables comprising information for determining whether a message on a network is to be forwarded to another network or not, said updating using a process by default, comprising means for enabling or disabling the default process, in order to efficiently transfer filtering information concerning a mobile terminal from one access point to another when the mobile terminal moves from the network of the one access point to the network of the another access point as per the teachings of Baker (see col. 2, lines 44-49).

Regarding claim 4, the combination of Volpano, Vij and Baker teaches all the limitations of claim 3. Baker further teaches a bridge device, wherein said default process is based on analysis of source address in messages detected on a respective network, comprising means for enabling or disabling message detection based updating (see col. 4, line 52 through col. 5, line 32 and col. 6, lines 35-44 and Figures 5-6 and 8).

Regarding claim 5, the combination of Volpano, Vij and Baker teaches all the limitations of claim 3. Baker further teaches a bridge device, further comprising means for updating a filtering table for a given network based on a device discovery process specific to said given network (see col. 4, line 52 through col. 5, line 32 and col. 6, lines 35-44 and Figures 2 and 8).

Regarding claim 6, the combination of Volpano, Vij and Baker teaches all the limitations of claim 3. Baker further teaches a bridge device, wherein said default process is enabled for an Ethernet network (see col. 3, lines 57-61 and col. 5, lines 19-32).

Regarding claim 7, the combination of Volpano, Vij and Baker teaches all the limitations of claim 3. Baker further teaches a bridge device, wherein said default process is disabled for a USB network (see col. 3, lines 57-61 and col. 5, lines 19-32 [i.e. the limitation "said default process is disabled for a USB network" is met by Baker, since Baker teaches the enabling and disabling of a wired network which broadly reads on a USB network]).

Regarding claim 8, the combination of Volpano, Vij and Baker teaches all the limitations of claim 1. Baker further teaches a bridge device, further comprising means for generating a message to said link management module upon a filtering table amendment, said means for generating a message having an enabled state and a disabled state for each network (see col. 4, line 52 through col. 5, line 32 and col. 6, lines 35-44 and Figures 2 and 8).

Regarding claim 9, the combination of Volpano, Vij and Baker teaches all the limitations of claim 8. Baker further teaches a bridge device, wherein said means for generating a message are enabled for an Ethernet network (see col. 3, lines 57-61 and col. 5, lines 19-32).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Terashita et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,602,851 discloses a multi-port bridge.

Rypinksi, U.S. Patent Number 5,907,544 discloses hub controller architecture and function for a multiple access-point wireless communication network.

Engwer, U.S. Patent Number 6,947,483 discloses method, apparatus, and system for managing data compression in a wireless network.

Shaver et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,947,736 discloses universal broadband home network for scalable IEEE 802.11 based wireless and wireline networking.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony S. Addy whose telephone number is 571-272-7795. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 8:00am-6:30pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duc M. Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7503. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/660,141

Page 9

Art Unit: 2617

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ADDY', with several loops and a horizontal line underneath.

Anthony S. Addy
June 26, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ELISEO RAMOS-FELICIANO', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

ELISEO RAMOS-FELICIANO
PRIMARY EXAMINER